

Volunteer Role Profile



Volunteer Role

Temporary Trustee

Volunteer Manager

Branch Partnership Manager

Where you will be based

Community

Why we want you

At the RSPCA we've been at the forefront of animal welfare since 1824 where we were founded in a London coffee shop and we're proud to be the oldest welfare charity around. With our new strategy 'Together for Animal Welfare' we want to improve the lives of more animals in England, Wales, and internationally than ever before.

We would like to attract a pool of temporary trustees with the skills and experience needed to help our branches in need. This is an exciting opportunity to become involved with the RSPCA in an important role which can really make a difference. Once you join us, we will assign you to a branch where you can make the most difference. As a temporary trustee you will be providing leadership to a branch that has been through a difficult period. You will be responsible for guiding the branch back to a stable situation and to a position where local trustees can be recruited and appointed. Once the branch is back on its feet, you would be able to help another branch when the need arises if you would like to.

As a temporary trustee you will have the chance to influence how we care for and prevent cruelty to animals.

What you will be doing

- Temporary trustees will need to tackle the most pressing issues initially. Once these issues have been addressed, temporary trustees will work alongside regional staff to consider:
 - The strategic priorities for the branch - how can it best meet local animal welfare needs and the public benefit?
 - Who needs to be consulted and informed about developments (e.g. branch members, staff, volunteers and service users)?
 - What is the 'exit strategy' and what matters need addressing before the branch is stable enough to return it to locally elected trustees?
 - As part of the wider RSPCA network, how can the branch support regional and national priorities?

- You will then set out a strategy and plan with timescales to achieve this.
- You will be supported by RSPCA staff throughout your time as a temporary trustee and there are lots of resources available to help you.

The skills you need

- Aged 18 or over
- We are looking for people from all social and cultural backgrounds, with a variety of experience and skills to draw on, whether these have been formed through life or work situations.
- You may have specific skills such as: Charity governance experience; Financial management/accountancy; Legal (property, employment, charity, commercial); Volunteer management; Business management; Project management; Human resources; Operational management; Animal welfare; Veterinary / clinical experience; Income generation (including retail, where the branch has charity shops)
- We are also looking for people who are creative, innovative, who have experience of or are part of the groups and communities we want to attract, who can bring new ideas, different experiences and fresh perspectives and put those ideas into action.
- You must be committed to the RSPCA's charitable objectives, so having a passion for animals is very helpful.
- Previous experience with the RSPCA or an understanding of the way the RSPCA works is useful.
- You will need to be able to work with people and have good interpersonal skills. Some branches employ staff so there may be line management responsibilities, depending on the needs of the branch you are assigned to help.

What's in it for you

- It's a great way to expand your professional and personal network through working with like-minded people who share your enthusiasm for animal welfare.
- You will be able to use your skills and experience to oversee the charity and make decisions that have a direct impact on local animal welfare.
- The opportunity to develop or enhance your skills, whilst making a real difference to the lives of animals.
- We will provide you with a comprehensive trustee training course which will provide you with everything you need to carry out the role.

- A sense of wellbeing knowing you are helping to make animals lives better.

Disclaimer

Temporary Trustees are appointed for 12 months. The appointment may end sooner or be renewed depending on circumstances.

Temporary trustees are required to meet every eight weeks as a minimum, but as you will be helping a branch in need, you may be required to meet more frequently to address important issues. Meetings can be held virtually.

Most people aged 18 or over are eligible to become a temporary trustee and you will need to become a member of the RSPCA.

We will ask you to sign a Trustee Declaration of Willingness to Act to clarify that you are not disqualified from being a trustee and have read the Charity Commission's Guidance for individuals on who cannot be a trustee or senior manager of a charity.

Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

References will be required.

Our voluntary roles are subject to an informal interview and introductory period. Before you can start volunteering you'll need to complete our suite of eLearn training.

For more information please visit www.rspca.org.uk/volunteer